



DEP Dedicates Solar Panels in Delaware County

MEDIA, DELAWARE COUNTY (Jan. 4) -- Environmental Protection Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty today joined community leaders and alternative energy experts in dedicating new solar panel installed in the Media Borough public library and elementary school --- a project funded in part by the Pennsylvania Energy Harvest Grant Program.

"Governor Rendell is building an economy that puts all of our energy resources to work, and Media Borough is demonstrating our versatility by becoming the solar capital of the state," McGinty said.

DEP offers significant incentives to help finance renewable energy projects. Energy Harvest funds projects that build markets for advanced and renewable energy technologies that use biomass, wind, solar, small-scale hydroelectric, landfill methane, energy efficiency, coal-bed methane and waste coal. The program has awarded \$15.9 million and leveraged another \$43.7 million in private funds since its inception in May 2003.

The new solar photovoltaic projects in Media were funded in part by a \$94,245 Energy Harvest grant awarded in November 2004. With this latest grant, panels have been installed at the library and elementary school. They also will be installed at the community theater.

The five new systems will produce about 33,250 kilowatt hours each year, or 33 megawatt hours per year. The actual dollar savings is estimated to be at least \$4,500 annually.

There will be substantial environmental benefits, as well. These noxious air pollutants will be eliminated: 86,058 pounds of carbon dioxide; 120 pounds of nitrous oxide; and 476 pounds of sulfur oxide and mercury. This reduction in pollutants is the equivalent of planting ten acres of trees annually.

The borough's first Energy Harvest grant --- \$15,925 awarded in February 2004 --- helped to fund a solar panel installation at the Veterans' Museum in the renovated Media Armory Building. The panel generates nearly 5,000 kilowatt hours per year, resulting in a 20 percent savings in Media Borough's electric bill for the Armory. The solar panel also helps to reduce 12,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, 17 pounds of nitrogen oxide and 68 pounds of sulfur dioxide each year.

Media plans to continue development of a new electric grid based on distributed solar generation, and through these projects, demonstrate the viability of solar power in urban settings.

To demonstrate the benefits of solar power, Governor Rendell in March 2005 installed a 2.8-kilowatt photovoltaic system on the south roof of his residence on Front Street in Harrisburg. The 16 panels power the site with clean electricity and ensure continuity of government services, providing at least 22 hours of backup power to critical infrastructure in the event of a blackout. The system also generates electricity continuously during normal daytime operations, offsetting electric utility supply to the residence.

All of this is part of Governor Rendell's larger effort to put in place policies and financial tools designed to promote advanced energy projects in the state.

Through Pennsylvania EDGE, or Energy Deployment for a Growing Economy, Governor Rendell is providing regulatory and financial incentives to shut down older, dirtier, inefficient power plants and re-power with advanced coal gasification technology.

The Governor launched the East Coast's first commercially viable biofuels storage and blending system in Middletown, Dauphin County. The plant will replace 3.2 million gallons of foreign oil with domestically produced biodiesel and will keep about \$6 million worth of energy dollars in the commonwealth by reducing the state's need to purchase imported fuels.

Governor Rendell also made Pennsylvania a frontrunner in addressing the country's dependence on foreign oil by supporting the nation's first-ever waste-coal-to-diesel plant and creating a fuel consortium that will purchase nearly all of the cheaper, cleaner 40 million gallons of diesel fuel that will be produced at Waste Management and Processors Inc.'s facility in Schuylkill County.

Pennsylvania is home to one of the nation's most progressive alternative energy portfolio standards, ensuring that 18 percent of all energy generated comes from clean, efficient sources by the year 2020. Benefits include \$10 billion in increased output for Pennsylvania, \$3 billion in additional earnings and between 3,500 and 4,000 new jobs for residents over the next 20 years.

Governor Rendell's Growing Greener II initiative provides significant resources to build on the success of other energy initiatives, including up to \$10 million annually for the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, which has up to \$1 billion available to provide financing to help build clean power and fuel plants. The Governor's newly created Renewable Agricultural Energy Council focuses on developing and expanding agricultural energy industries in Pennsylvania.

An executive order, "Energy Management and Conservation in the Commonwealth," ensures maximum efficiency in energy management and conservation in state facilities through the implementation of a centralized energy strategy. The Governor also has proposed a twice-a-year green sales tax holiday on the purchase of energy-efficient appliances to help families save about 30 percent on their annual utility bill.

The Governor's successful and visionary leadership was recognized by former President William J. Clinton in the Inaugural Clinton Global Initiative, an international summit in New York City. The Governor also spoke before the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., where he called for a massive national commitment to alternative energy.

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